

A NEW SPECIES OF ARCHIBACCHARIS (COMPOSITAE: ASTEREAE)
FROM CENTRAL AMERICA

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Observations in Archibaccharis since recently published studies (Jackson, 1975; Nesom, 1988) have brought to light an undescribed species from Nicaragua. It is a member of sect. Archibaccharis and apparently most closely related to A. standleyi S. F. Blake.

Archibaccharis nicaraguensis Nesom, sp. nov.

A. standleyi S. F. Blake similis sed pubescentia caulium trichomatum septis fuscatis, internodiis brevioribus, foliis basaliter attenuatis, foliis et pedicellis eglandulosis, et capitulis et corollis minoribus differt.

Erect shrubs ca. 1 m tall. Stems straight, not angled, densely hispid-puberulent with stiff, sharply upcurved trichomes 0.2-0.5 mm long with dark cross-walls visible with a dissecting microscope. Leaves densely arranged, at least on the upper stems, on nodes 0.5-1.8 cm apart, unreduced in size until well into the capitulescence, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, 55-80 mm long, 12-20 mm wide, gradually narrowed-acute to a subpetiolar base 2-3 mm long, margins sparsely hairy to glabrate, serrulate-mucronulate with 7-13 minute but prominent mucros on each side, the apices acute to acuminate, the lower surface conspicuously lighter-colored than the upper, with dark, finely reticulate venation, glabrous lamina but sparsely hairy veins, the upper surface slightly shiny, glabrous to very sparsely, minutely, and inconspicuously hispidulous on the lamina, the main veins usually hairy. Capitulescence terminal, paniculate, with the lower branches spreading and originating from among the unreduced cauline leaves. Heads with phyllaries sparsely hairy, oblong-lanceolate, the outer ca. half as long as the inner. Staminate heads ca. 3 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, with 0-2 marginal, eligulate, pistillate flowers; staminate corollas white, 3 mm long, the tube 1.2 mm long, the lobes 2 mm long, cut to the very top of the tube, abaxially glandular-dotted near the apices. Pistillate heads 4.0-4.5 mm long, with 2-3 central staminate flowers; pistillate corollas white, 3.8 mm long, the tube 2.5 mm long, with ligules 1.0-1.3 mm long, the style 4.2 mm long with branches 1.1 mm long. Achenes narrowly oblong-oblancoate, flattened, 1.6-1.8 mm long, 0.4-0.5 mm wide, sparsely hairy, gland-dotted, 4-5 ribbed; pappus of 24-26 bristles 3.5-4.0 mm long.

The two collections were made ca. 90 km apart in or very near the Cordillera Isabelia in northern Nicaragua. Probably flowering ca. Jan-Apr (-May).

TYPE: NICARAGUA, Dept. Zelaya, Cerro Saslaya, elfin forest, shrub on rock face at summit, 1650 m, 4 May 1978, [pistillate, mostly past flower and fruit], D. Neil 3843 (Holotype: TEX!; isotype: MO!).

Additional collection examined: NICARAGUA, Dept. Jinotega, Fila Piedra Pelona, al S del Cerro Kilambé, 13°34' N, 85°41' W, elev. ca. 1500-1665 m, bosque enano, 28 Mar 1981, [staminate], P. Moreno 7803 (MO-unicate).

The erect habit of *Archibaccharis nicaraguensis* along with its straight stems and terminal capitulescences place it in sect. *Archibaccharis* (see Jackson, 1975). Among the taxa of this group, the new species appears to be most closely related to *A. standleyi* S. F. Blake. The two share stems that are densely puberulent with upcurved hairs, staminate corollas with long, linear, lobes cut to the top of the tube and gland-dotted near the apex on the abaxial surfaces, and gland-dotted achenes. *Archibaccharis standleyi*, however, has shorter, denser, and reddish stem pubescence, longer internodes, leaves with rounded to cordate bases, pedicels and lower leaf surfaces with resin dots, larger heads and corollas, and eglandular achenes.

The only other species of sect. *Archibaccharis* known from Nicaragua is *A. asperifolia*, which is similar in habit and overall appearance to *A. nicaraguensis*. The two are different in many features, however, and easily separated. *Archibaccharis asperifolia* has stems sparsely and loosely pilosulous, leaves with very prominently hispidulous upper and lower surfaces, glabrous or glabrate phyllaries, pistillate flowers with essentially eligulate corollas, staminate corollas with the throat nearly as long as the eglandular lobes, and eglandular achenes.

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LITERATURE CITED

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- Nesom, G. L. 1988. Studies in Mexican *Archibaccharis* (Compositae). *Phytologia*, in press.